

CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)
COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM, MILPITAS CITY HALL

MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2018

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Arefi, Awasthi, Chang, Grilli, Tsai.
Commissioners Absent: Strohfus. Alternate Commissioner resigned.
- Council Liaison Anthony Phan: Absent
MHS Student Liaison Dinh: Absent
MUSD Liaison: Absent.
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** No alternates seated.
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of October 26, 2017.
M / S: Arefi / Awasthi Ayes: All
- V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of January 25, 2017.
M / S: Arefi / Tsai Ayes: All
- VI. Announcements:** None.
- VII. Public Forum:** None.
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. Elections**
Staff conducted elections for Chair. Commissioner Grilli was nominated. There were no other nominations.
- MOTION: To elect Commissioner Grilli as Chair of the SCC.
M / S: Awasthi / Tsai Ayes: All
- Chair Grilli conducted elections for Vice Chair. Discussion followed. Consensus was to nominate Commissioner Arefi.
- MOTION: To elect Commissioner Arefi as Vice Chair of the SCC.
M / S: Awasthi / Tsai Ayes: All
- IX. Old Business**

2. Possible Sister City Relationship with a Latin American City

Chair Grilli reported there are no responses from his contact in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and that there is no known community support for a city in Bolivia. It was agreed to look elsewhere. Discussion followed considering cities in Brazil. It was agreed that the SCC would receive research at the February meeting and discuss if community support existed for a Latin American City.

3. Possible Sister City Relationship with Indian City

Commissioner Awasthi reported on two possible cities: Chandigarh, proposed by the CEO of the India Community Center, and; Varanasi, a historical city where the present prime minister is also Member of Parliament for Varanasi.

4. Current Ideas in Motion to Promote the Sister Cities Program

Staff reported that an office assistant is working to update and revise the SCC's web page. There will be an effort to rearrange the design to include photos.

5. e-Pal Project with Sister Cities

Staff reported that with the late start to the project this year, Dagupan expressed concern with participating. Staff has asked Huizhou if it will take the second half of the students.

7. Tsukuba City, Japan

Vice Chair Arefi reviewed photos of the event celebrating the Emperor of Japan's birthday at the home of the Japanese Consul General, Mr. Jun Yamada. He attended with staff who prepared small, wrapped gifts of a thumb drive and City pin. A separate gift was presented to the Consul General. There was opportunity to speak with the Vice Consul, Mr. Satoshi Higo, who was impressive with his knowledge of the relationship between Tsukuba and Milpitas.

Staff presented photos of sets of art sent by Milpitas High School students and received from Tsukuba students. There was also a gift sent from Mayor Tatsuo Igarashi – a framed artwork of Japanese traditional painting and Edo, a traditional woodblock printing – titled *Rainbow Over Mt. Tsukuba*. Staff will prepare a letter of thanks from Mayor Tran to Mayor Igarashi.

8. Dagupan City, Philippines

Lead Commissioner Tsai noted that Dagupan officials invited the SCC to attend the Bangus Festival in April. Discussion followed about the State Department's Level 2 travel advisory for the Philippines. It was noted that adults may travel to Dagupan at their own risk to represent their support of this sister city relationship.

9. Huizhou Municipality, China

Vice Chair Grilli asked if there was a possibility of providing another time for a student visit from Huizhou. Staff responded that there was no contact with the MHS principal regarding the possibility of a March visit during the time of the Trojan Olympics. Although probably not enough time for this year, staff was asked to contact Principal Rojas for a visit in 2019.

X. Student Liaison Report – None

XI. City Council Liaison Report – None

XII. School District Liaison Report – None

XIII. Future Agenda Items

Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges

- i. Tsukuba, Japan
- ii. Dagupan, Philippines
- iii. Huizhou, China

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Tsai asked if the meeting may be adjourned in memory of his grandmother, Ms. Chu Yu Chen, who was 90 years of age and born in Guangdong, China. Her life spanned surviving WWII in China and immigration to the US.

No further business was discussed. At 6:45 p.m. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Ms. Chu Yu Chen until the next regularly scheduled meeting of February 22, 2018.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of January 25 in memory of Ms. Chu Yu Chen.

M / S: Awasthi / Tsai

Ayes: All